

FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 1888 – HB 2118

April 14, 2008

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS (016405, 016660): Deletes the language of the original bill. Enacts the *Tennessee Soil Scientist Licensing and Regulatory Act* to provide for the regulation of soil scientists by the Board of Examiners for Land Surveyors. Appoints a five member Soil Scientist Advisory Committee (SSAC) to be administratively attached to the registered land surveyor's board to advise the board on matters relating to the soil scientist community. SSAC will terminate on June 30 of the second calendar year. Establishes the Soil Scientists Fund to receive moneys to be used to defray expenses incurred in the administration of this act; however, any unused funds at the end of any fiscal year will revert to the general fund. A violation of the provisions of this act will be a Class B misdemeanor.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Revenue - \$30,000/One-Time
\$28,000/Biennially/Beginning in Year Three

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

Increase State Revenue –

\$15,200/Soil Scientists Fund/One-Time
\$14,800/General Fund/One-Time

\$28,000/General Fund/Biennially/Beginning in Year Three

Increase State Expenditures –

\$7,600/SSAC/FY08-09 and FY09-10

Increase Local Revenue – Not Significant

Increase Local Expenditures – Not Significant

Assumptions applied to amendments:

- Approximately 100 persons will become licensed and pay an initial application fee of \$200 and a license fee of \$100. In year three such persons will begin to pay a biennial license fee of \$280.

- Any increase in state expenditures to license and regulate soil scientists is estimated to be not significant.
- Increased expenditures of \$7,600 for the five-member advisory committee to meet four times each year (\$380 travel expenses x 5 members x 4 meetings).
- SSAC will terminate on June 30 of the second calendar year following the year in which the Commissioner makes the first appointments.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §4-29-121 this program would be required to generate sufficient revenue to cover expenditures. The bill, as amended, requires that all excess fee collections from each fiscal year revert to the general fund. Since this is a two-year license program, the inability to retain collected fees from year to year could create a negative balance in subsequent years.
- There will not be a sufficient number of prosecutions for local governments to experience any significant increase in revenue or expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/rct